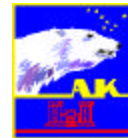




**Fiscal Year 2001
Alaska District Success Stories
Island Wide FUDS, Dutch Harbor C3 Zone**



Gun Mount and Quonset Hut

FUDS PROJECT NAME: Island Wide FUDS
FUDS NO.: F10AK0841
LOCATION: Amaknak/Unalaska Islands, Alaska

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

During WWII, several U.S. Army posts and a Naval Operating Base were established in the Dutch Harbor/Unalaska area. Approximately 65,000 military personnel were living on and around Amaknak and Unalaska Islands at one time. Japanese war planes bombed the Dutch Harbor area in 1942, resulting in the construction of more defensive positions and movement of other facilities to better protected locations. Approximately 10,000 new troops occupied surrounding areas on Unalaska Island after the bombings.

The population density and the intensive preparations for the war effort required large volumes of fuels and other potentially hazardous materials, such as PCBs, asbestos, and various metals used in construction, power generation, and other activities typical of remote military operations. The 1983 Defense Appropriations Act initiated DOD cleanup actions at FUDS.

Beginning in 1996, environmental studies were performed at more than 70 sites throughout Amaknak Island and in the vicinity of the City of Unalaska. The sites investigated underground storage tanks (USTs), fuel pipelines, WWII-era buildings, transformers, drums disposal areas, and landfills. Field studies included site reconnaissance, site investigations, remedial investigations, and interim cleanup actions. Ninety-three USTs, a fuel distribution pipeline, and 230 drums were removed and disposed of along with contaminated liquids, sludge, and soil.

Data compiled from soil, groundwater, surface water, and sediment samples were evaluated to determine if the sites required additional study or could be recommended for NFA. Analytical data were compared to ADEC levels for the protection of human health and groundwater. As a result, 25 sites were recommended for NFA by the USAED and received concurrence by ADEC.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The final step in the investigation and cleanup of these 25 sites is the participation of the public in the decision-making process. Two Proposed Plans were prepared identifying the preferred alternative of closure for the 25 sites. The Proposed Plans summarized the results of previous investigations and cleanup actions and explained how the USAED, with concurrence by ADEC, evaluated alternatives for the sites. The evaluations determined that the 25 sites do not present a risk to human health of groundwater and, therefore, can be closed with no further action required.

The Proposed Plans were distributed to the public for review and comment, with copies placed in the Information Repositories. To provide the forum for the public to present verbal comments, as well as submit written comments, two public meetings were held for each Proposed Plan.

The first public meeting was conducted as part of a weekly meeting for the City of Unalaska City Council. A summary of the sites and investigation results were presented, followed by a question-and-answer session with the Mayor and Council members. The audience was also encouraged to present questions regarding the information in the Proposed Plan.



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The second public meeting for each Proposed Plan was held at the Unalaska Senior Center. This meeting provided an additional venue for briefing the community and expanded the level of public participation in the decision-making process for the 25 sites.

NATURE OF SUCCESS

One of the keys to the continuing success of the FUDS work on Amaknak and Unalaska Islands is the active participation of the public in the program. The distribution of the Proposed Plans and the solicitation of public comments at the public meetings resulted in a large number of questions and comments being submitted. Based on comments received, two of the sites were removed from consideration for closure and further investigations planned. This action has reinforced the USAED's commitment to ensuring public participation in the decision-making process and the value placed on the partnership with the local community with the common goal of ensuring protection of human health and groundwater.

POINT OF CONTACT

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